

What Mile Posts are For.

"Will you explain just the practical benefit of mile posts along a railroad track?" asked an inquisitive traveler of Superintendent Schaff of the Peoria & Eastern as they flew past one of the white painted posts.

"So far as the general public is concerned," replied the superintendent, "I don't suppose that mile posts are of any particular benefit. The traveler can tell by looking out the car window how far he is from terminal points, but in that he is not greatly interested."

"Some people like to figure out from the mile posts how far they have traveled or how far they have to go, and there are not a few who like to time the speed of trains by the mile posts. But that is not what the posts are for. In the office of the division superintendent is a profile, or diagram, showing the location of every one of these posts."

"If an accident occurs, a rail breaks, a car lets down, or anything out of the ordinary happens between stations, the superintendent is notified of the proximity of the mishap to some particular mile post and thus the spot can be located and men are sent there at once, and they can go in a hurry, for they know where the place is. Otherwise they would have to move slowly between stations until the spot was found and this means a loss of

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MAROONED

time much more valuable than the price of the mile posts, and it would be pretty hard to railroad successfully without them."—Exchange.

That Terrible English.

A story is told of Count Schouvaloff, a former Russian ambassador to England. He greatly admired English women and was heartily annoyed when he offended any one of them. He learned English, and, having heard one famous English beauty say "Shut up!" to another, he imagined it to be a phrase of polite agreement, such "say no more." In this sense he himself addressed it to an illustrious lady the next night at dinner, to the lady's consternation and his own, when he later discovered his mistake.—New York Tribune.

Rigid Formality.

Mrs. Van Renselaer Cruger tells a story of a Washington hostess who invited an attache of one of the foreign legations to dine with her. The invitation was formally accepted, but on the morning of the appointed day a note, written by the foreigner's valet, was received, which read: "Mr. Blank regrets very much that he will not be able to be present at Mrs. Swift's dinner tonight, as he is dead."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Another Roosevelt Creation.

The European powers recognize the new republic because they believe Mr. Roosevelt will be able to make good his "usurpation of the kingly prerogative." Monarchists are glad to see the United States ranged alongside their policy. They hasten to indorse

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the change. And what a change it is, indeed, from the principles and the traditions of the United States.—Boston Post.